Encroachment of Land by Nepalese

1072. DR. ISHWAR CHANDRA GUPTA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether fresh encroachment into Indian Territory by the Nepalese along the Indo-Nepal border in West Champaran district has come to the notice of Government of India;

(b) whether 306 acres of forest land is now already under the possession of Nepal at village Rampurna, Pasranin and Balgangmar;

(c) whether Nepal Government has also staked their claim over 5073-69 acres of land; and

(d) if so, steps taken to settle the disputes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA) : (a) to (d) Government of India's attention has been drawn to a news item in the Hindustan Times of 15 April, 1993 which reported about some fresh encroachments in the West Champaran district. We have requested the Government of Bihar to look into the matter.

This is a long-standing problem dating back to the pre-Independence period. According to the Government of Bihar, the area involved in the Susta-Narasahi sector is over 5 thousand acres.

This matter has been discussed with the Government of Nepal at various levels including the Joint Technical Level India-Nepal Boundary Committee, which has been constituted for demarcating the India-Nepal boundary. There is now a need for undertaking a joint survey of the area and the matter along with other points concerning the boundary will be coming up for further discussions in the next meeting of the Boundary Committee to be held in September/ October, 1993.

Nuclear Competition between India and Pakistan

1073. DR. SANJAYA SINH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the U.S. Secretary of State has recently acknowledged that Nuclear-non-Proliferation concerns on the Indian Subcontinent were on the top of his worry list and that he considered it very important to try to avoid nuclear competition between India and Pakistan;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the reaction of the Government of India in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The US Secretary of State made these remarks during the course of his testimony before the House Foreign Operations Sub-committee of Appropriations Committee of the US Congress in March, 1993.

(c) Government maintain that genuine non-proliferation can be achieved only through multilaterally negotiated agreements that are comprehensive in scope, universal in application and non-discriminatory in character.

Indian CBI Team visited Dubai

1074. SHRI RAM GOPAL YADAV : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :